I have been involved in computers and software systems
for more then 20 years - I derive pleasure and profit
from my knowlage and understanding of the systems I use
and support in my work.

  I believe that the proposed settlement in the US vs
Microsoft is a true failure of the government to
understand the issues at hand. It is not simply an
issue of monopoly powers at work within the market
place; our very future is at risk because of this
monopoly. Here are a couple of thoughts on how:

  By wanting to control all media flow to 'customers'
via broadband internet connectivity and/or computer
access to information, Microsoft will, in effect
control the right to be heard in any forum or any non-
face to face contact. The EULA (End user licence
agreement) for one of thier products, Front Page 2000
contains language forbiding users to express an opinion
which shows or describes Microsoft in a negative way.

  Our stock market and credit systems are suffering
heavilly after a decline in technology stocks; while
this is normal and proper given the .com foolishness,
Microsoft still represents a huge, single basket for
many many too many eggs to be in.

  The current conflict in Afghanistan is largely being
won by knowlage much like the gulf war was in 1991. By
allowing a single entity (one which the goverment has
proven to be guilty of breaking its promises of
conduct.) control or at the very least 'responsibility'
for citizens access to information and for thier voices
to be heard seems very very wrong. Especially as
Microsoft has outright bought testimonials from various
technology press.

  I believe a better solution or remedy should contain
most if not all of the following actions:

Splitting Microsoft into 3 or more companies; an OS, a
services company and an application software company

Preventing all non-OS companies any 'inside' knowlage

of the OS code unless the same agreement had been made
with no fewer then 3 other companies

Preventing the marketing or delivery of products which
do not meet IETF/IEEE specifications for protocols
which they utilize; end the embrace-and-extend(pervert)
stratagy which has led to so many competitors market
place failures.

Limiting the number of media channels any single
company could own; tv, cable, radio and major websites
such as yahoo or msn.com as the FCC currently does with
broadcast stations.

End the practice of application preload with the OS (as
would happen if the company were split.)

And, finally, as a last item, to require TRUTHFULL
publishing of every API(application programming
interface) and system fuction call with every licence
of the OS sold (without additional cost to consumers)
to facilitate AT LEAST application competition.

John Antram
Cornwall, Vermont 05753